

FOI Ref

7656

Response sent

07 Sept 2020

(CCC) Business Rates

On the 11th of June I downloaded your business rates data from this website: <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/open-data-transparency-in-local-government>. However, the "Current Liability" column only had 0s in it, so I emailed to query this. Jenny replied on the 12th of June to tell me that they would look into the issue and upload a corrected dataset. I then emailed back on the same day to ask whether the problem was simply confined to that column and whether the rest of the data was correct. Unfortunately, I haven't heard anything, except an email from Jenny on the 29th of July to say that she had asked the department to contact me directly, which regrettably has not happened. I appreciate that councils are very busy dealing with the impact of Covid-19, but would it be possible to have my original question answered please or an estimate as to when corrected information might be uploaded?

Response:

The provision of this data set requires us to extract multiple reports from our billing system and to merge these into a single data sheet. There is currently an issue in that the 'currently liability' is showing as 'zero' in all cases. This is not correct and despite attempting to fix the report we have been unable to extract this data field from our system. We will continue to work on a solution but until we can fix the problem that column will not be shown in future data releases.

A further issue has also been flagged up where not all cases of Retail Relief (RD20) are being reported, we are investigating this issue which appears to affect new cases eligible in 2020 under the Expanded Scheme. We hope to have this fixed soon and in time for the next upload of data which is scheduled for the end of September

Further queries on this matter should be directed to foi@cambridge.gov.uk